

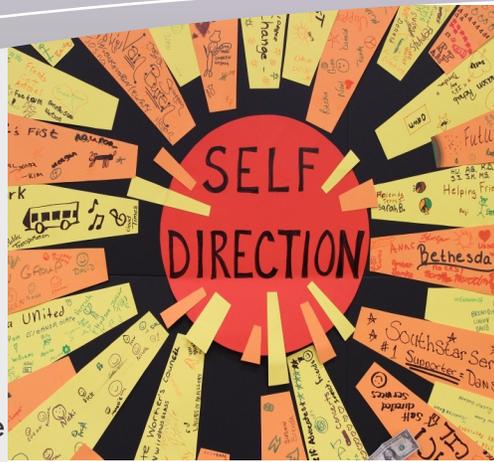
The Alliance News

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Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance



Vision

Our vision is for self-advocates to work together to get the support we need to live the life we want in the community.

Mission

Our mission is to speak up for ourselves and each other while working together to make changes in our communities and in Illinois.

The Alliance is proud to be an Initiative of the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities



Speak up and speak out at the annual Going Home Rally to show support for people with disabilities living in the community. The rally will take place before the Governor's budget address. Legislators will be in attendance that day so it is a prime time to gather and have our voices heard.

Wednesday, March 26, 2014
Illinois State Capitol Rotunda

10:00 am - 1:00 pm
Springfield, Illinois

Following the Going Home Rally, participants will drop off information to their elected officials to educate them about the benefits of community integration and reinforce that everyone can live in the community with the proper supports and services.

Going Home is an advocacy campaign dedicated to full inclusion and equality for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Please see pages 7 and 8 for more details and registration.

Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance
PO Box 17704 Urbana, IL 61803 618.806.9431
Email: info@selfadvocacyalliance.org Website: www.selfadvocacyalliance.org
Find us on Facebook at Illinois Self-Advocacy Alliance



The Alliance News

Advocacy in Action



Happy March fellow advocates! I hope you are all surviving this cold and snowy winter. Here's a little bit about what Krescene Beck and I got up to last month:

On January 23rd, we got to spend the day with the advocates of Advocates in Motion (AIM), one of our newest groups, at the Pioneer Center in McHenry. We all had one goal for the day. That goal was to come up with a presentation about self-advocacy to give to the management of the Pioneer Center. It not only covered

what self-advocacy was all about, but it also covered a short list of things that the advocates wanted to be more involved in at their agency and some ideas on how they could become more involved with each one. The advocates did the work to come up with that list long before Krescene and I even got there, and boy did they have some **great** ideas. Here's a little bit about what they came up with:

Five Things AIM Wants to be Involved In at the Pioneer Center

Help with Staff Evaluations: We want to help evaluate and rate staff, and share with them what they do well in their jobs and what they could improve upon.

More Work Opportunities: We want to have the opportunity to roll newspapers, and sell baked goods and craft items for extra money. We would also like to invite local businesses to Pioneer Center, so that we can share with them what we can do.

Help with Hiring Staff: We want to meet and help interview job applicants, so that they know they will be working for us, and not the staff.

Help People in Job Preparation: We would like to find a way for people who have or are going through job coaching and employment services to be paid to help other people find a job.

Planning My Goals: We want staff to know that we should be in charge of our own staffing. We want to set our own goals, we want our case managers to help up be creative in presenting those goals to others.

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Advocacy in Action

Continued from page 2

Isn't that cool?! Not only was it great to hear AIMs goals and ideas, but it was fantastic to see that the staff of Pioneer Center was excited to hear them as well. Soon AIM hopes to come up with a pledge or contract for the staff to sign, so that everyone knows what is expected of them and they can work together to achieve some of these goals. It just goes to show you that it does pay to Speak Up and Speak Out. Thank you so much to AIM and the staff of the Pioneer Center in McHenry, Illinois. It was a wonderful day, and I cannot wait to see your journey unfold.

Keep up the good work!

Megan Norlin

Excited Self-Advocate, and Local Group Coordinator for The Alliance



On Monday, February 10th, self-advocates Andrew Z. and Rosa R. were guests on Disability Beat Radio Show! Andrew and Rosa represented the Personal Power Players self-advocacy group at Piatt County Mental Health Center in Monticello, and spoke about personal and community self-advocacy. They also shared information about The Alliance. This was the first time that Andrew and Rosa had been on a radio show and they were stars!

Disability Beat airs every Monday from 5.30 - 6pm on WEFT 90.1FM in Champaign, Illinois. Disability Beat is about and for people with all types of disabilities with a slant toward social justice, community supports, inclusion, accessibility, freedom and choice. You can check it out on www.disabilitybeat.com.





The Alliance News

Advocacy in Action

We Are Self-Advocates!

Self-advocates of Developing Social Connections self-advocacy group at DSC in Champaign are so excited to be speaking up and speaking out that they wanted to share their knowledge and skills with others. They thought about who they could share with and an opportunity came up to share with self-advocates at Centennial High School. With support from The Alliance, a small group of self-advocates from Developing Social Connections met and spent time talking about self-advocacy and developing a presentation covering the pieces of the self-advocacy puzzle including Who, What, How, When/Where as well as how to action plan a goal/dream. Once the presentation was developed, time was spent in practicing and on Friday, February 28th, the presentation was shared with high school self-advocates. There was a lot of speaking up and speak out as everyone in the room participated in the presentation.



Thanks to self-advocates Danielle, Megan, Ryan, Charles, and advisor Kim Harris...you ROCK!



ROHSA presents An Organizational Culture of Self-Advocacy Webinar

On Monday, February 24th, self-advocates of ROHSA (Ray of Hope Self-Advocates) from SouthSTAR Services in Chicago Heights presented a webinar on the Organizational Culture of Self-Advocacy. Led by self-advocates Melissa, Cindy, Brian, Lawrence, Sean, and advisor Leanne Roth, the webinar took participants on the journey of how self-advocacy developed at

SouthSTAR Services. The interactive webinar included polls for participants to respond to.

If you missed the webinar and want to receive a recording of it, just e-mail Krescene Beck at krescenebeck@gmail.com.

Thanks to ROHSA for sharing your experiences and giving ideas on how to change the organizational culture of self-advocacy!



The Alliance News

Advocacy in Action



Self-Advocates Attend Legislative Breakfast

On February 26th, several self-advocates met with legislators over coffee and donuts at the state capitol, and shared their stories of living lives filled with independence, equality and freedom when they successfully moved from state institutions to community living. More than 20 legislators attended the breakfast, met with self-advocates and allies, and learned about the Going Home project; several even are planning to do tours of CILA's to see firsthand the possibilities that community living offers!



Research Project Needs Your Support

Do you use a smartphone, tablet, and/or social media to increase your autonomy and self-direction? If so, Benjamin wants to hear from you! Benjamin will earn his Master's degree in May 2014. His thesis will focus on how smartphones, tablets, and social media can increase the autonomy and self-direction of people with developmental disabilities. So it's research time! For his project, Benj needs to interview a variety of people with developmental disabilities who are using smartphones, tablets, and/or social media and, as a result, have experienced positive outcomes in their self-reliance, self-direction, autonomy, and/or increased participation in inclusive activities at work, school, recreation, etc.

If you would like to be a part of Benjamin's research, please write to him at heroman87@msn.com and include "Master's Project" in the subject line. He's not quite ready to begin interviewing yet, but is gathering names of potential participants for his research, and he thanks you in advance for any assistance.

Learn more by visiting www.disabilityisnatural.com/newsletters/112-ask.

The Alliance Staff Contact Information

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The Alliance News

Learning Opportunity

SPECIAL NEEDS FAMILIES

Madison County Transition
Planning Committee
in conjunction with
Lewis & Clark Community
College

Get It Done Vendor List:

- ADDUS
 - Beverly Farm Foundation
 - Challenge Unlimited Inc.
 - Chestnut Mental Health Services
 - Community Living Options
 - D.D.S.
 - D.R.S
 - Family Connections
 - Illinois Assistive Technology Program
 - Lewis & Clark Community College
 - Madison County STEP
 - Madison County Transition Planning Committee
 - Mary Rottmann—Benefits Counselor
 - MCT
 - MERS Goodwill
 - New Opportunities
 - Selective Service
 - Sivia Law Firm
 - Social School
 - William BeDell Family Support Unit
-Plus Many More

DATE: March 25, 2014

TIME: 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

LOCATION:
N.O. Nelson Campus
600 Troy Road
Edwardsville IL. 62025

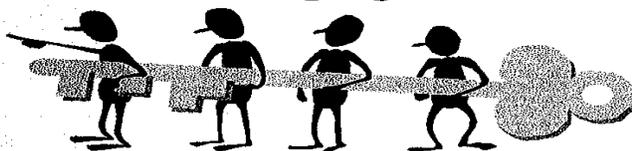
GET IT DONE DAY

Come and meet the service providers.
They will be available to answer questions and provide information to you. Families will be able to begin the process of working with service providers while at this event. Please bring your child's documents: birth certificate, State I.D., Social Security number, documentation of disability, and any other documentation that may be needed to complete required paperwork.

Door Prizes will be awarded to attendees who hold a winning ticket !!!!!!!

This event is free to all attendees.

Working together



to GET IT DONE

CPDU's will be available to Educators.



The Alliance News

Going Home Rally Information



GOING HOME RALLY

An advocacy rally dedicated to support self-advocates moving from state institutions to a community of choice.

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

10am - 1pm

Illinois State Capitol in the Rotunda

Springfield, IL

Be a part of self-advocacy in action! Join with others as you speak up and speak out in support of self-advocates across Illinois who live in state institutions and want to experience life in a community of their choice. Following the Going Home Rally, self-advocates will visit with their elected officials to share information and ask for support of Going Home for self-advocates living in state institutions

For more information on Going Home, please visit www.goinghomeillinois.org. Find and "like" Going Home on Facebook at Going Home: A Full Life in the Community.

EVENT DETAILS:

- **This event is free. A t-shirt and a box lunch are included.**
- Sign language interpreters and PA's will provide accommodations.
- Please register by completing the Registration Form. Registrations must be in by Thursday, March 20, 2014 so that lunches can be ordered, and materials and accommodations prepared.
- The Alliance will reimburse mileage for self-advocate transportation.
- The Alliance will reimburse up to \$20 (with valid receipts) for supplies for homemade signs to show support at the rally.

For more information, please contact Krescene Beck, Project Director of The Alliance, at 618.806.9431 or krescenebeck@gmail.com.



The Alliance News

Going Home Rally Registration Form

Wednesday, March 26, 2014

10am - 1pm

Illinois State Capitol in the Rotunda

Springfield, IL

Agency/Self-Advocacy Group Name _____

Number attending: Self-Advocates _____ Support People _____ TOTAL _____

Names of Self-Advocates (please print clearly and include t-shirt sizes for each): _____

Names of Support People (please print clearly and include t-shirt sizes for each): _____

Contact Person

Name _____ Phone _____

Agency/Group Mailing Address _____

E-mail _____

Accommodation Requests

___ Dietary requirements – please specify (ie, Gluten Free, Dental Soft, No Styrofoam, etc.).

NOTE: Any physician-prescribed dietary requirements will be accommodated; food preferences will not be honored. _____

___ Other requests – please specify _____

Please register by Thursday, March 20, 2014 by mail, email, or fax to:

Krescene Beck Mail: 6754 Middlegate Lane, Glen Carbon, IL 62034

Email: krescenebeck@gmail.com

Fax: 217.875.8899